International Seabed Authority ISBA/21/FC/7

Finance Committee

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Implementation of potential cost-saving measures

Report of the Secretary-General

1. Throughout the reporting period, the secretariat remained committed to limiting increases in administrative expenses through the continued implementation of cost-saving and efficiency measures. The International Seabed Authority is a member of the United Nations country team and is currently working with eight United Nations agencies[1] through the operations management team to formulate agreements under the United Nations common services initiative in Jamaica. Under the initiative, the operations management team continues to work towards reducing costs while streamlining business practices in areas such as human resources management, information technology, finance, procurement, travel and common premises.

2. The initiative has resulted in two collaborative agreements, one for common procurement for stationery and office supplies and the other being a regional long-term agreement for travel management. The Authority is using inter-agency collaboration to reduce administrative costs by avoiding duplication of work. It is anticipated that, by 2016, the United Nations system in Jamaica will have achieved a reduction of 15 per cent in procurement costs and a reduction of 30 per cent in procurement time in support of United Nations Development Assistance Framework outcomes.

3. In 2014, the secretariat reviewed an environmentally friendly and energy-saving lighting system for its premises. It is expected to reduce lighting energy consumption by up to half, result in annual savings of some $15,000 and have a two-year payback period. The secretariat plans to include the installation costs in the budget for the financial period 2017-2018.

[1] The participating agencies are the United Nations Population Fund, the Pan American Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Development Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

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